

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
AGRE-00 PC-01 /066 W
-----271529Z 000588 /53

R 271426Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8722
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EPAP, PFOR, ETRD, GB, BY, RW
SUBJ: GABONESE TRADE WITH BURUNDI AND RWANDA

REF: BUJUMBURA 1059 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. IN COURSE NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDED
DECEMBER 23, GOG AND RWANDAN REPRESENTATIVES REACHED PRE-
LIMINARY AGREEMENT ON ARTICLES TO BE EXCHANGED BETWEEN TWO
COUNTRIES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF COOPERATION ACCORDS SIGNED
SEVEAL MONTHS EARLIER.

2. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS ACCOUNTS, RWANDA IS INTERESTED
IN IMPORTING GABONESE TEXTILES, PAINTS AND VARNISHES, AND
WOOD PRODUCTS. IN RETURN, RWANDA ENVISAGES SUPPLYING
GABON WITH VARIOUS FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, BULK OF WHICH
ARE CURRENTLY IMPORTED FROM EUROPE. PRESS NOTES THAT
EXPORT THESE ITEMS FROM RWANDA WILL DEPEND ON DEVELOPING
FACILITIES FOR PRESERVING AND PACKAGING, AND ADDS THAT
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TRANSPORTATION WILL PROBABLY BE ARRANGED BY GOG.
GABONESE ADDED THAT SUPPLY OF MEAT NOT PRESENTLY CON-
TEMPLATED UNDER GOG-GOR AGREEMENTS. END UNCLASSIFIED
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3. WITH REGARD TO PARALLEL TRADE BETWEEN BURUNDI AND

GABON (REFTEL), DEPARTING GOG AMBASSADOR HERE REPORTS THIS IS ALSO STILL IN TALKING STAGE. BURUNDI, HE SAYS, HAS AGREED TO SUPPLY 120 TONS OF MEAT PER MONTH (PRESUMABLY POST-JULY FIGURE REFTTEL), BUT GABONESE HAVE NOT AS YET TAKEN NECESSARY STEPS TO ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION. AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT BURUNDI IS ALSO POTENTIAL SUPPLIER OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, BUT LIKE RWANDA WOULD HAVE TO ORGANIZE ITS OWN PRODUCTION FACILITIES IN ORDER TO COPE WITH EXPORT MARKET.

4. COMMENT: AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED, GOG IS STILL ACTIVELY PURSUING ALTERNATIVES TO EUROPEAN/SOUTH AFRICAN SOURCES FOR FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. AS BURUNDIAN AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, WE ARE STILL SOME WAY FROM EFFECTIVE SHIFT IN SUPPLIERS IN EITHER FIELD. STEIGMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TRADE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LIBREV02720
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760472-1169
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761213/aaaaakwn.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BUJUMBURA 1059
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GABONESE TRADE WITH BURUNDI AND RWANDA
TAGS: EPAP, PFOR, ETRD, GB, BY, RW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006